

Introduction to Modernism “The Long Modernism”
ENG 224 + 264
Spring 2019

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Course Description

The goal of this course is to destabilize the chronological markers that usually constitute modernism in literature, typically beginning around World War I and concluding around the end of World War II. Scholars such as James Smethurst, Geoffrey Jacques, Farah Jasmine Griffin, and others have traced modernism to African American literature and culture during the latter part of the nineteenth century. This course will not trace that lineage; instead, it will examine the ways threads of modernism continue past the teleological end by focusing on the work of African American author Ernest J. Gaines. Through this focus, we will challenge the monolithic construction of literary genres and lineages. With Gaines as the focus of this course, we will examine authors that inspired him: Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, and Willa Cather. As well, we will look at authors that Gaines inspired: Alice Walker, Attica Locke, and Wiley Cash. In this manner, we will explore modernism not just through the mid-twentieth century but through the twenty-first. We will explore how modernism responded to encroaching modernity, created new forms of writing, and how these works challenge generic conventions. Ultimately, we will examine how each of these authors approach place, race, gender, class, and modernity in their writing.

Exam Format: ENGL 224—school exam (20.05.2019)
ENGL 264—supervised essay (20.05.2019 at 13:00) and oral exam (scheduled)

Primary Texts

Jean Toomer *Cane* (1923)
Ernest Hemingway *In Our Time* (1924)
William Faulkner *The Sound and the Fury* (1929)
Willa Cather *Sapphira and the Slave Girl* (1940)
Ernest J. Gaines *Bloodline* (1968)
Ernest J. Gaines *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* (1971)
Alice Walker *The Third Life of Grange Copeland* (1970)
Attica Locke *The Cutting Season* (2012)
Wiley Cash *A Land More Kind Than Home* (2012)

Critical Texts

Butler, Robert James. “Alice Walker's Vision of the South in *The Third Life of Grange Copeland*.” *African American Review*, vol. 27, no. 2, 1993, pp. 195–204.
Ellison, Ralph. “The World and the Jug.” *Shadow and Act*. Vintage Books, 1964. pp. 107-143.
Holcomb, Gary and Charles Scruggs. *Hemingway and the Black Renaissance*. Ohio State University Press, 2012. pp. 1-26.
Locklear, Erica Abrams. “Mountain Fatalism in Wiley Cash’s *A Land More Kind Than Home*.” *Appalachian Heritage*, vol. 42 no. 3, 2014, pp. 110-121.
Luscher, Robert M. “The Pulse of *Bloodline*.” *Critical Reflections on the Fiction of Ernest J.*

- Gaines, University of Georgia Press, 1994, pp. 62-88.
- Seck, Ibrahima. "Habitation Haydel (Whitney Plantation): *histoire d'une plantation de la Cité des Allemands en Louisiane (1750-1860)*." *Creolization in the French Americas*. Edited by Jean-Marc Masseaut, Michael S. Martin, and Jordan Kellman, University of Louisiana Press, 2015. pp. 71-92.
- Smethurst, James. "Introduction." *The African American Roots of Modernism: From Reconstruction to the Harlem Renaissance*. University of North Carolina Press, 2011. pp. 1-27.
- Teutsch, Matthew and Katharine Henry. "'Memories wasn't a place, memories was in the mind': The Gothic in Ernest J. Gaines's *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*." *Mississippi Quarterly*, vol. 68, no. 3-4, Summer-Fall 2015, pp. 511-530.
- Wright-Cleveland, Margaret E. "*Cane* and *In Our Time*: A Literary Conversation about Race." *Hemingway and Race*, eds. Gary Holcomb and Charles Scruggs. Ohio State University Press, 2012. Pp. 151-176.

From *Literary Theory: An Anthology*, 3rd edition, edited by Julie Rivkin and Michael Ryan

- Freud, Sigmund. "The Uncanny." pp. 592-614.
- Morrison, Toni. "Playing in the Dark." pp.1163-1173.

From Robert Dale Parker's *How to Interpret Literature: Critical Theory and Cultural Studies*

- Chapter 2: "New Criticism"
- Chapter 5: "Psychoanalysis"

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say/I say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*, 4th edition, W.W. Norton and Company, 2018.

Week	Readings
3—Jan. 15	Ellison, Ralph. "The World and the Jug." <i>Shadow and Act</i> . Vintage Books, 1964. pp. 107-143. Smethurst, James. "Introduction." <i>The African American Roots of Modernism: From Reconstruction to the Harlem Renaissance</i> . University of North Carolina Press, 2011. pp. 1-27.
4—Jan. 22	Ernest J. Gaines <i>Bloodline</i> (1968) Luscher, Robert M. "The Pulse of <i>Bloodline</i> ." <i>Critical Reflections on the Fiction of Ernest J. Gaines</i> , University of Georgia Press, 1994, pp. 62-88. Chapter 5: "Psychoanalysis." pp. 111-147.
5—Jan. 29	Jean Toomer <i>Cane</i> (1923)
6—Feb. 5	Ernest Hemingway <i>In Our Time</i> (1924) Holcomb, Gary and Charles Scruggs. <i>Hemingway and the Black Renaissance</i> . Ohio State University Press, 2012. pp. 1-26.
7—Feb. 12	Wright-Cleveland, Margaret E. " <i>Cane</i> and <i>In Our Time</i> : A Literary Conversation about Race." <i>Hemingway and Race</i> , eds. Gary Holcomb and Charles Scruggs, Ohio State University Press, 2012. pp. 151-176. <i>They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing</i> Part I and Part II. pp. 19-100.

	ENGL 264 Students: Submit topic and annotated bibliography on Mitt UiB. We will schedule meetings to discuss topic and bibliography.
8—Feb. 19	No class
10—Mar. 5	Ernest J. Gaines <i>The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman</i> (1971) Freud, Sigmund. "The Uncanny." Pp. 592-614.
11—Mar. 12	Class will be 14:15-18:00 today! William Faulkner <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> (1929) Teutsch, Matthew and Katharine Henry. "'Memories wasn't a place, memories was in the mind': The Gothic in Ernest J. Gaines's <i>The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman</i> ." <i>Mississippi Quarterly</i> , vol. 68, no. 3-4, Summer-Fall 2015, pp. 511-530. <i>They Say/I say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing</i> . Part III. pp. 101-161.
12—Mar. 19	Willa Cather <i>Sapphira and the Slave Girl</i> (1940) Morrison, Toni. "Playing in the Dark." pp.1163-1173. Chapter 2: "New Criticism." pp. 11-41. ENGL 264 Students: Submit 2,500-3,000 word draft of your Bacheloroppgave on Mitt UiB. We will schedule meetings for the week of 25 March to discuss.
13—Mar. 26	Alice Walker <i>The Third Life of Grange Copeland</i> (1970) Butler, Robert James. "Alice Walker's Vision of the South in <i>The Third Life of Grange Copeland</i> ." <i>African American Review</i> , vol. 27, no. 2, 1993, pp. 195–204.
14—Apr. 2	Wiley Cash <i>A Land More Kind Than Home</i> (2012) Locklear, Erica Abrams. "Mountain Fatalism in Wiley Cash's <i>A Land More Kind Than Home</i> ." <i>Appalachian Heritage</i> , vol. 42 no. 3, 2014, pp. 110-121.
15—Apr. 9	Attica Locke <i>The Cutting Season</i> (2012) Seck, Ibrahima. "Habitation Haydel (Whitney Plantation): <i>histoire d'une plantation de la Cité des Allemands en Louisiane</i> (1750-1860)." <i>Creolization in the French Americas</i> . Edited by Jean-Marc Masseaut, Michael S. Martin, and Jordan Kellman, University of Louisiana Press, 2015. pp. 71-92.

